

SENATOR ASHFORD: In talking to my constituents about this issue, one of the concerns that has been voiced to me is, and maybe you can just answer this for the record, when you have a high-speed chase across the state, as we have had in the past seven, eight, nine counties for various violations, would you tell me how do you explain the concerns that some citizens have that...that Senator Chambers has raised to a degree by some of his amendments, that if you have at least what appears to be a minor traffic offense turn into a high-speed chase across a number of counties, how do you answer that concern and should there be a line drawn somewhere on this, or...would you just answer that for the record for me?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, Senator Ashford, I think it depends entirely on your set of circumstances because the definition of what is a minor offense, certainly, if you...the high-speed chase is, obviously, the thing that is the worst that can occur because you do place people in jeopardy. That is the reason we have liability laws because at some point in time you will assume the risk for your actions, whether you have a badge on or whether you don't have a badge on. The necessity to cross that line is that anytime you have that barrier, and if you are talking about crossing multicounty lines for a long chase, a hundred mile chase, if at some point in time you don't enforce that law and you don't apprehend those people, and as a regular basis, all you've got to do is run to the line, you encourage more of that behavior because people know that they can get away. That is not good policy. Is a high-speed chase a good policy? Probably not if you can avoid it, but at some point in time you may not have that choice.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. I think that...I've had a bill before the Judiciary Committee on a couple of occasions dealing with high-speed chases, and I know Senator Chambers has had some difficulty with that bill, but one of the reasons why I brought that bill, and I think it needs some work and we need to discuss it, but it is the issue of what do we do when we have a high-speed chase, and what sort of procedures should be implemented. One of the concerns that I do have is that there is inadequate training in Nebraska for high-speed chases. There is also the issue of other means of apprehension. I know other states have...just have in the past implemented procedures whereby helicopters are called in after a period of time, after the chase goes on for a period of time. Be that as it may, I think my concern is maybe one that relates